



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Richmond, Virginia
May 13, 2005

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Ralph Sampson, age 44, currently residing in Georgia, was arrested by federal agents in Atlanta today on felony charges in the Eastern District of Virginia for failing to pay court-ordered child support for one of his children, and failing to pay court-ordered child support as a second offense for another of his children. Sampson faces a maximum possible sentence of two years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on each charge.

Sampson, a former NBA basketball player for the Sacramento Kings and Houston Rockets, was indicted in the Eastern District of Virginia on March 19, 2003, for failing to pay more than \$21,000 in child support obligations. The 2003 charges arose from Sampson's failure to comply with a 1990 Stafford County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court order that directed him to pay \$1,500 a month in support of a daughter living in Falmouth, Virginia. The order was modified in 1992 to reduce Sampson's obligations to \$675 per month. Sampson pled guilty to the federal charge on April 4, 2003, and was sentenced to two years probation on July 8, 2003. As a condition of his sentence and probation, Sampson was ordered to pay all current and delinquent child support obligations. Sampson has failed to maintain the child support obligations for this child and is currently more than \$6,000 in arrears.

On May 4, 2005, Sampson was again indicted in the Eastern District of Virginia. The current indictment alleges that Sampson has not only failed to pay child support obligations as required by the 2003 federal order for the child mentioned above, but also has failed to pay court-ordered child support for a second daughter, who resides in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite a 1988 order from the District of Columbia's Superior Court, Family Division, Domestic Relations Branch directing him to pay \$1,500 a month in child support for this daughter, the indictment alleges that as of April 30, 2005, Sampson owed more than \$247,500 in past due child support obligations for her.

Also announcing the arrest today is Patrick J. Doyle, Special Agent in Charge of Investigations, Department of Health and Human Services.

The case was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara E. Flannery.

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